

June 2, 2011

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Eureka Forest Products – Sierra Pacific Dock, Maintenance Dredging Project
WDID No. 1B05028WNHU

Humboldt County

On April 11, 2011, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Sierra Pacific Industries (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities associated with annual maintenance dredging at the Eureka Forest Product dock located along the eastern shoreline of Humboldt Bay at 1206 West 14th Street, Eureka. The Eureka Forest Products dock is currently leased by Sierra Pacific Industries and is also referred to as the Sierra Pacific Dock. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Humboldt Bay in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

The Applicant currently uses the dock facility to export wood chips and lumber, and for importing logs. Barges moor at the dock while the goods are transferred. The purpose of the proposed dredging project is to restore and maintain adequate berthing depth along the dock to allow for continued safe mooring and product movement by the Applicant. The proposed project involves dredging to remove bay sediment that has accumulated along the face of the dock since the last time the dock was dredged in 1989. On August 10, 2006, the Regional Water Board issued certification authorizing similar dredging activities; however, the previously authorized dredging was not conducted and the 2006 certification is due to expire on August 10, 2011.

The area proposed for dredging is approximately 80-feet wide by 700-feet long and parallel to the face of the 474-foot long dock. The dredging area extends approximately 100 feet north beyond the north end of the dock and approximately 126 feet south beyond the south end of the dock. The dredging area covers approximately 1.29 acres of the bottom of Humboldt Bay. Final dredging depth is minus 35 feet mean lower low water plus a one foot overdredge allowance. Approximately 2,000 cubic yards of sediment will be dredged during the initial episode and approximately 10,000 cubic yards may be dredged over the next five years.

A crane with a clamshell dredge will be located on the dock and will deposit dredged material into dump trucks to be transported to an onsite retention basin located in the northeast corner of upland property adjacent to the dock. The spoil retention basin will be used to decant water from the sediment using percolation. The proposed basin site is sloped away from the bay to prevent incidental surface run-off from flowing into the bay. The basin will consist of two adjacent dewatering basins. The primary dewatering basin will be approximately 50-feet long by 25-feet wide with a four-foot high perimeter berm. The dredge spoils will be spread to a depth of 3 feet in the primary basin and allowed to remain for at least 48 hours. During this time the water in the spoils will percolate out of the spoils and into the subsurface or into the secondary dewatering basin. Following completion of the dewatering process, dredge spoils will be loaded into trucks and transported to a permitted offsite location for disposal.

The applicant has obtained authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Individual Permit (File No. 29536 N), pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game is not required for this project. On July 20, 2006, the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH No. 2006052166) for the project in order to comply with CEQA. The Regional Water Board has considered the environmental document and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment.

The proposed project will not result in any new permanent impacts to waters of the United States. Compensatory mitigation is not required for this project. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control. All work will be completed between September 1 and March 31 when bay waters are typically more naturally turbid and to avoid the peak out-migration period for federally listed juvenile salmonids

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the Applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and design drawings. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.